THE Harvest

August 2026 | The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



Search for the 11th Bishop

Information for the election of the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas.

"In the Wilderness" at Mega Camp / St. Andrew's Hosts Creative Space

From The Council of Trustees

THE 167TH Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas will be held on October 23-24 in Topeka at Grace Cathedral. During this convention, those in attendance will vote to elect the XI Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas.

The Bishop Search Committee's prayer-filled work has resulted in a diverse slate of candidates; we are so grateful for the committee's patient and thoughtful work over the recent months. We also appreciate and anticipate the detailed effort and planning of the Transition Committee as we prepare to meet and greet the candidates. This is an exciting time and one that encourages intentional prayer and reflection on our near future as well as our long-term work.

Please mark your calendars for a meet and greet event. The schedule can be found on page 17. Ask questions and, if you are not a voting member of the convention, be sure to talk with your clergy and lay delegates so they can cast informed votes.

Our convention theme draws from Joshua 1:9, recognizing it as a wonderful reminder of the foundations of our collective journey as faithful people of God.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Reflection on the words, "be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or discouraged…" might lead the curious reader to wonder what lies ahead for Joshua, but it's not far off the mark to imagine God knew things Joshua didn't and thus was reminding Joshua to stand firm on the knowledge that he was following in the path God had set before him.

The assurance to Joshua that "the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go," completes his commissioning, his preparation. Joshua now has what he needs as God's chosen leader, stepping confidently into command and begins his work of preparing the people of Israel to cross the Jordan.

As we move into the next era of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, may we live into it with confidence, openness, and courage. May we engage richly in relationship with one another, and our triune God, walking in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.



The 167th Convention

of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

October 23-24, 2026

Grace Cathedral, Topeka

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ON THE COVER: The diocesan crozier, symbol of the office of the bishop, stands in front of the cathedra, or bishop's chair, at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. | *Photo by Chad Senuta*

THE Harvest

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The Episcopal Church is a community of 2 million members in 111 dioceses in 17 countries in the Americas and abroad. The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas is a community of 8,500 members in 43 congregations across eastern Kansas.

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News and Notes from Congregations



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteers from St. Martin in the Fields, Edwardsville sponsored the Bonner Springs City Band Concert Ice Cream Social in July.

St. Paul's, Clay Center served free and healthy lunches to children through its Kids Cafe ministry. The program employs a chef from a local school to prepare the meals and volunteers from the church deliver the meals to families in the church parking lot. On average the program serves 100 meals each weekday in the summer.

St. Andrew's, Derby has been busy harvesting produce in the garden with Breakthrough Clubhouse, hosting VBS, and re-launching a Youth Led Sunday service.

St. Martin in the Fields, Edwardsville is engaging with the Bonner Springs community and recently sponsored the Bonner Springs City Band Concert Ice Cream Social in July.

St. Mary's, Galena added a prayer request box to the church's blessing box, hosted an ice cream social in May and a pizza party in June. The parish was also excited to have a youth member from the church attend Episcopal Mega Camp at Camp Wood YMCA.

Epiphany, Independence hosted Vacation Bible School with the help of St. Thomas youth group from Overland Park who provided the program. The theme focused on connecting with God and one another.

Church of the Covenant - St. John's Mission, Junction City enjoyed a church picnic held at a neighborhood pool, where several people swam, while others visited inside the clubhouse. Attendees enjoyed birthday cake decorated with "Happy 167th Birthday" to begin the celebration of the church's 167th anniversary.

St. Margaret's and Trinity, Lawrence marched together in the Lawrence Pride Parade, celebrating the diversity of their churches and the Lawrence community.

St. Paul's, Leavenworth participated in the Leavenworth Pride Picnic in June and serves around 400 people each month at the church's Community Meal.

St. Michael and All Angels, Mission installed an outdoor altar on the church's northwest lawn. The altar and side table were designed, constructed, and installed by parishioner Dick LeClaire. The church hopes to have more outdoor services going forward.

Church of the Ascension, Neodesha celebrated the feast day of Ascension with a guest preacher, the Rev. Suzan Olson, and a potluck dinner.

St. Thomas, Overland Park celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Very Rev. Gar Demo's ministry with the parish on June 11. The festivities included a bbq dinner followed by entertainment featuring songs written by the church's praise band, "Gar Trivia," videos from friends and colleagues, and even a "roast" from former Senior Warden George Phillips. Fr. Gar and the parish expressed mutual gratitude for what the church has done together in ministry over the past 20 years and their excitement for the future.

St. Luke's, Shawnee hosted an organ performance by Zaheer Popo, an accomplished organist, conductor, and educator whose work spans church music, the concert stage, and the classroom. Popo has collaborated with a wide range of ensembles, including the Texas Southern University Choir, the Olathe Community Orchestra, and the Queen City Chorale.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Michael and All Angels, Mission installed a new outdoor altar.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of St. Margaret's and Trinity march in the Lawrence Pride Parade.

Grace Cathedral, Topeka celebrated July 4th with a special service filled with patriotic songs, uplifting readings, and prayers for the nation. The service included: the church's Community choir, handbells & brass quintet and a message from guest speaker, local historian and deacon, the Rev. Don Chubb. Members of the military and Scouts were invited to wear uniforms and others were invited to come decked out in red, white, and blue. Following the service, the church hosted an ice cream social in All Saints' Hall.

Breakthrough, Wichita is preparing to support Clubhouse members who are pursuing education and workforce training. Congregations are invited to partner by donating school supplies to help these adult learners succeed. Donations may be dropped off at Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services, or if a parish would like to organize a collection drive, Breakthrough would be grateful to work with them.

Good Shepherd, Wichita provides laundry support for those in need through its Laundry Love ministry on the second Tuesday of each month.

St. James', Wichita members gathered on the church's front lawn between services on Sunday, July 26 to make their values as Episcopalians visible. Parishioners came together to promote love, kindness, peace, service, and justice not as a protest but rather as a "promotion." Parishioners made signs promoting the church's positive values and handed out bottled water to make a publicly visible statement of who the church is and strives to be.

St. John's, Wichita hosts ShowerUp on Thursdays. The ministry serves those experiencing homelessness and anyone in need by providing mobile showers, laundry, hygiene resources, and personal care. The goal of Shower up is to shower grace, hope, and love with everyone.

St. Stephen's, Wichita hosted vacation bible school with the theme of "Snowball Mountain Challenge: Finding your Strength in God." The program invited kids to an exciting winter sports event where they became challengers, gearing up for frosty games, and hands-on lessons about faith where they come to realize that with the strength God provides, they can share their gifts, be brave, give their all, pray, and hope.



PHOTO BY CHAD SENUTA

The Very Rev. Gar Demo thanks St. Thomas, Overland Park for 20 years of ministry together.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Very Rev. Sharon Billman was named Vicar Emeritus of St. John's, Parsons.

Clergy News

- The Rev. Deborah Hill called as Rector of St. John's, Wichita
- The Rev. Ron Peak died May 10
- The Very Rev. Sharon Billman was named Vicar Emeritus of St. John's, Parsons on May 24
- The Rev. Arland Wallace died May 27
- The Rev. Curtis Cowell died June 18
- The Rev. Gar Demo celebrated 20 years of ministry with St. Thomas, Overland Park
- The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta was announced as one of four candidates for 11th Bishop of Kansas

The Odyssey Invites All to Return

by Canon Lisa Senuta

Finding an Instagram reel, podcast, article or Facebook post on Christopher Nolan's *Odyssey* is easy to do right now. Everyone has something to say about the summer blockbuster. Even so, I am wondering how does a spiritual director respond to Christopher Nolan's *Odyssey*? For those who follow Jesus, I have thoughts to share.

The three-thousand-year-old masterpiece tells the story of a warrior returning home from battle. Watching the recent film version helped me to see the story as a return from grief, trauma, and becoming a stranger to oneself.

Odysseus is cursed as he attempts to get home. He faces a myriad of wild elements. Sorcerers, temptations, storms, the tragic death of his countrymen, including a necessary visit to Hades as he fights with his whole being to stay on course for home. But as the story goes, he just can't seem to get there.

Matt Damon's portrayal of Odysseus surfaces the many inner complexities of going home: the violations of war wreak havoc on the soul, the battle wages on long after you have left the battlefield, scars can change you so deeply that home as it once existed is destroyed for you. In the same way the inward journey is a long distance to travel, full of deceptions, temptations, illusions, losses, and fears.

Odysseus' drama invites us to recognize the smaller dramas in each of our lives. Every person can lose a conscious connection to our true self. Life gets complicated, our survival mechanisms forged for our protection create a defensiveness that cuts us off, bad things happen, or life twists and turns and years go by. We lose our sense of trust in God, and with it our interior freedom, wholeness, and purpose for goodness. We feel out of sync or maybe we become as wayward as the prodigal son.

Spiritual masters teach us that the most important part of the journey with God is the return. For example, Teresa of Avila taught her sisters about the castle within. She outlines the process for trust in God to grow to its fullest potential. She warns that there will be times of aridity, desolation, grief and fear that keep us from entering our own spiritual heart. Some will never grow beyond the first room or two of the castle because they do not seek help through hard times.

One of the beautiful things about being a spiritual director is when recognition comes across someone's face. As if a distance that felt impossible just revealed a new path. St Paul's letter to the Romans reminded the apostles and believers that even when there is real threat, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus.

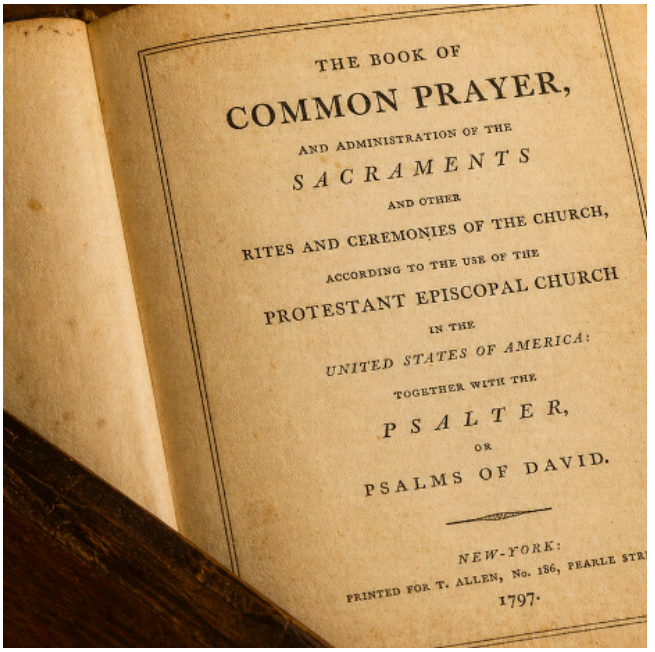
We are invited, like Odysseus, to grow beyond where we are now and keep going. Trust in God who will guide you to new freedom, to true sabbath rest, and a fresh awakening in the home of your own being with God.



OFFICIAL MOVIE POSTER , THE ODYSSEY, UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The Odyssey, Universal Pictures, directed by Christopher Nolan.

Worshiping from the First American Prayer Book



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Book of Common Prayer 1789.

by the Rev. Margaret McGhee

On the Sunday of Independence Day weekend, St. Paul's, Manhattan traveled back in time. We celebrated Holy Communion according to the first American Book of Common Prayer, which was adopted in 1789.

Revolutionary War-era Philadelphia was a busy place. You probably know about the Continental Congress, which adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776. And about the Constitutional Convention, which hashed out the terms of the new Constitution in the same location in 1787. But just down the street from Independence Hall, another convention gathered — the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

American Anglicans came together in Philadelphia to figure out what their church would become now that the Revolution was over. A church that had been governed by Parliament and headed by the English king needed to find a new way forward in a new nation.

It must have been an awkward meeting. The Secretary of that General Convention, Francis Hopkinson, was also one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The senior bishop present, Samuel Seabury, had been a loyalist, committed to the king and opposed to the Revolution.

The men who gathered in Christ Church in Philadelphia in 1789 to write the first American prayer book knew what a state church looked like. They also knew from experience some of its downfalls. The Revolutionary War had split parishes, set priests against their own congregations, and sent neighbors into exile. So when they wrote the first American prayer book, they made careful choices. They took the king out of the prayers, but they didn't put George Washington back in his place. Someone proposed a feast for Independence Day. They said no.

Our July 5 service wasn't a costume drama. It was a real service of worship. Much of it felt familiar, if a bit out of order. The 1789 Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer Seabury brought back from Scotland after bishops there agreed to ordain him. Through many revisions, it evolved into our current Rite I Eucharist. Our bulletin explained every twist and turn.

Since the 1789 book pre-dated most of the church music we know today, we let 250 years of hymnody do some of the talking — we sang James Russell Lowell's abolition-era "Once to ev'ry man and nation," and "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and "This Is My Song," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and we ended with "America the Beautiful." The music represented two and a half centuries of cries for justice and calls to hope, two and a half centuries of the sort of patriotism that acknowledges that we're still working to fully live into our nation's founding ideals.

If you're curious, the full bulletin, with all its historical notes, is posted in the Adult Formation section of our website (stpaulsmanhattan.org), and the livestream is on our YouTube channel. We're glad to share what we learned — historical rabbit holes and all.

Making Room for Creativity



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Women gather at St. Andrew's, Emporia for a new ministry that invites participants to explore art as a pathway to self-discovery.

by Nancy Pontius

At St. Andrew's, Emporia, a new ministry has begun to take root—one built on creativity, community, and the belief that each person carries a unique story waiting to be expressed.

Nancy Pontius and Mercedes Tarragona have partnered to launch Creative Space, a weekly gathering where people are invited to explore art as a pathway to self-discovery. Beginning with collage, participants use images, colors, words, and textures to create meaningful works that reflect something of who they are and what they wish to express.

What excites us most is that Creative Space is not about artistic talent or creating a perfect product. It is about giving ourselves permission to create without fear of judgment. Too often, we silence our creativity because we worry whether our work is "good enough." In Creative Space, we set those concerns aside and simply begin.

As participants search through magazines, select images, and arrange them on the page, something remarkable often happens. Pieces that seem unrelated begin to tell a story. Colors call to us. Certain images insist on being chosen. Through the creative process, people frequently discover feelings, memories, hopes, and insights that words alone may not have revealed. Sometimes there is laughter. Sometimes there is surprise. And sometimes tears are shed as participants encounter parts of themselves that have been waiting to be seen, heard, and expressed.

For us, this is also a spiritual practice. Creativity invites us to slow down, pay attention, and listen deeply. It reminds us that we are all created in the image of a Creator. When we make something with our hands and hearts, we participate in that sacred gift of creation.

Creative Space is also about community. Around the table, people share conversation, laughter, encouragement, and discovery. There is no competition, no grading, and no expectation of perfection. There is simply an invitation to be present, to explore, and to support one another.

In a world that often asks us to perform, Creative Space offers something different: a place to wonder, to play, to create, and to reconnect with ourselves, one another, and God.

We meet Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's. All are welcome. Bring your curiosity. The rest will unfold from there.

St. David's Summer Lunch Program



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Carolyn Francis (left) and Karen Clowers (right) hand out beverages and keep track of the number of lunch guests at St. David's Summer Lunch Program.

by Karen Clowers

St. David's Outreach Team has been building community year after year with local families through the Summer Lunch Program. Now in its 12th year at the church, the USDA Summer Lunch Program in partnership with Topeka Public Schools (USD 501) has provided free, nutritious meals to all children ages 1-18 at no cost. Even during Covid-19 when the church was unable to open the parish hall for meals, bag lunches were served and distributed, setting up a drive through lane for pick-up.

This program does not require an application or proof of income; it is open to all children. Rising food costs is making the program more important than ever to ensure kids have access to healthy meals during summer break. In addition, St David's covers meals for any adult accompanying the kids, everyone can eat, and there is more.

In addition to providing a site to manage the lunch program, kids can also enjoy board games, crafts, coloring books, and active, indoor games after the meal. This allows interaction with other children their same age, helping build their social skills, something that can be hard to do during the summer break. Once a week, each child goes home with a book or other "treasure" and special crafts are provided when holidays occur. The space also provides moms, dads, and caregivers with a bit of respite, time to visit with each other, often trading activity information, child rearing tips, and just a pleasant bit of adult interaction. Due to these little "extras" St. David's has been recognized this year by the Topeka Public Schools as the model summer lunch program and was recently filmed to serve as a training guide for future training. We provide more than a location to serve food; we strive to serve everyone with kindness and hospitality.

St. Davidians are also recipients of the program. Volunteers return year after year greeting returning students, parents, and caregivers arriving for lunch. Each day seeing the kids smile, play, and wave goodbye at the end of the lunch hour can be the highlight of our day. We have watched them grow up, have made connections and maintain that bit of community so special to our neighborhood.

"In the Wilderness" at Mega Camp

by Zachariah Clark

For urban Kansans, going to camp may feel like an absolute retreat into wilderness. Nestled away in the Flint Hills, I was in awe of the beautiful prairie landscape that surrounds Camp Wood. For one week, 197 students, a significant increase from last year, came together from across Kansas and Missouri to experience wilderness. This year's camp theme "In the Wilderness" drew our attention to how God remains present in our wilderness moments.

As a summer intern, I've gotten the chance to assist with preparing for camp. However, even as I assembled materials and listened to others' favorite camp stories, I knew I would not fully understand Mega Camp until experiencing it for myself. Being my first time at Mega Camp as a Junior High counselor and first time ever at an Episcopal camp, the week was also a wilderness for me of new experiences and challenges. While at times camp can feel like chaos as the comforts of our home life routines are interrupted and plans change due to rain, it is the connections we build with one another that make it all so worth it.

I found myself resonating to this theme of wilderness as a young person growing up in an increasingly polarized and confusing world. Whether one is beginning middle school or graduating college, changes around us seem to happen too fast. As if these life transitions were not enough to challenge us, we are constantly reminded of the unstable political realities in our world by the media and even notifications on our phones and personal devices. Our prayer book acknowledges this reality for young people in its prayer titled "For Young Persons" (BCP 829) which starts with, "God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world". Amid the uncertainties and even fear that wilderness brings, camp reminds us of God's continuous presence all around us. In the seasons of wilderness and transition in our lives, God continues to work in and through us.

In the wilderness of Mega Camp, as the distractions of my outside life were set aside, I was more able to notice God's evolving work amidst youth ministries in our church. I learned how camp is an anchor to many youth across the diocese. Most campers come from Episcopal churches with few other members their age and many do not attend one of our churches at all. At camp, I saw long-standing friendships reunited and new friendships blossom. I saw campers willing to engage in difficult conversations with one another as they process why their faith is meaningful to them. Camp brings deep and important connection in our diocese when we are otherwise spread far apart.



PHOTO BY MADISON CHALAINE

Graduating seniors receive gifts during Senior Service at Mega Camp.

Not only does camp provide friendship and community, but it also allows students and young people opportunities to practice leadership. For example, at camp, elections are held for Youth Commission, a student-led group that helps plan youth events around the diocese. Additionally, on Wednesday night, five graduating seniors gave the message during Mega Eucharist, when all campers and staff come together for worship. Of course, campers are not the only ones learning to be leaders. Young adults learn to be leaders in a new capacity as counselors. These are just a few ways that Mega Camp invites young people to be challenged as leaders of the church.

As an Episcopal convert, I am proud to see and learn how our diocese works to create an inclusive and meaningful space for young people. Mega Camp creates boundary-crossing relationships where there would otherwise not be for an often overlooked age group in our church. I am excited to continue to see how God uses our gifts to uplift children, youth, and young adults in the Diocese of Kansas.






The Search for the 11th Bishop of Kansas

by Chad Senuta

On July 9, the Council of Trustees announced a slate of four candidates in the search for the 11th Bishop of Kansas, pictured from left to right above.

- The Rev. Grant Ambrose, Diocese of Susquehanna
- The Rev. David Gortner, Diocese of Spokane
- The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice, Diocese of Missouri
- The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta, Diocese of Kansas

With the announcement of the slate, the Search Committee, co-chaired by the Very Rev. Torey Lightcap and Mr. Scott Howard has completed its work. The Venerable Jim Cummins, President of the Council of Trustees, said, "The Search Committee has done an outstanding job. The Council asked them to deliver a slate of three to five excellent candidates and they have done so faithfully and with integrity. We are truly grateful for their service."

Now the Transition Committee, co-chaired by the Rev. Martha Jenkins and Mr. Dakota Bennett, has begun its work of supporting the candidates and their families through the remainder of the search process, communicating with the diocese, organizing Meet and Greets in each of the four convocations, overseeing the election of the 11th bishop at the 167th Diocesan Convention, and planning the service of ordination and consecration scheduled for April 17, 2027 with Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe presiding.

The Meet and Greets, set for September 15-18, are an opportunity to introduce the candidates and their families to members of the diocese. There will be visits to each of the four convocations with options for clergy, lay members, youth, and young adults to interact with the candidates.

This edition of The Harvest includes information about each candidate as well as more details about the next steps in the search process.

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From the diocesan profile November 3, 2025

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The Bishop We Seek

On August 13, 2025, the Search Committee for the 11th bishop of Kansas invited members of the diocese to participate in an online survey and a series of in-person listening sessions to share insights and perspectives to help develop the diocesan bishop search profile. The document was published on November 3, 2025. The "bishop we seek" section of the profile is reprinted here:

The Episcopal diocese of Kansas seeks a bishop who is deeply rooted in prayer, grounded in the Gospel, and equipped to help us embody Christ's mission in the world. We seek someone who will walk with us as pastor, teacher, and leader, guiding us into the next chapter of our common life with wisdom, vision, and grace.

This ministry is not for the faint of heart and demands a leader who thrives under pressure and approaches the often-complex work of change not with anxiety but with steadiness, resilience, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We hope for a bishop whose leadership is characterized by sound judgment, personal integrity, and spiritual depth. We seek a person of discernment and prayer who will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ with power and clarity, inspiring us to deeper faithfulness and bold witness.

As a dynamic preacher and clear communicator, our next bishop will guide us in faithful conversation amid the complexities of our time and help us discern how to live as people of hope and reconciliation in a divided world.

Our next bishop will guide us through seasons of transition with clarity and confidence, facing the realities of church decline honestly while articulating a compelling vision for the future and helping us find and embrace new opportunities for growth and mission.

They will be an adaptive leader — open to new insights, willing to learn, and able to adjust approaches as circumstances evolve, responding to change not as a threat but as an opportunity for the Spirit to do something new.

We seek a bishop who is grounded and self-aware, with the humility to grow, learn, and even change their mind. They will model teachability and a commitment to continual growth, encouraging the same posture of faithful curiosity and openness across our diocesan community.

Effective episcopal leadership requires both pastoral sensitivity and practical skill. We seek a bishop who is an able administrator, financially literate, and transparent in goals and budgeting. Faithfully guiding the mission of the church within its established frameworks, they will help us speak across differences and clearly discern the work God is calling us to do.

With a collaborative and team-oriented approach, they will trust, support, and build up those called to serve, cultivating a culture where all gifts are recognized and utilized for the sake of God's mission.

We also seek a bishop who is relational, visible, and accessible — a compassionate pastor who provides excellent care to clergy and congregations and who fosters genuine spiritual community among all people.

They will demonstrate a deep commitment to justice and outreach, embody the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons, and support ministries that nurture and form youth and young adults. With a personable presence, a good sense of humor, and a capacity for responsive, rather than reactive, leadership, they will walk with us in times of joy and challenge alike.

Finally, we desire a bishop who values our ministries and understands the distinct character of our diocese. They will help us speak across differences, engage faithfully within church structures, and clearly discern the work God is calling us to do.

Above all, we seek a bishop who will share a long-term commitment to this diocese — providing stability, continuity, and steadfast leadership as together we build up the Body of Christ in Kansas and beyond.

The Rev. Grant Ambrose

Biography

The Reverend Grant Ambrose serves as the Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in York, Pennsylvania. Prior to coming to St. Andrew's York in 2019, Grant served two different parishes in the Diocese of Virginia. He also serves as a Chaplain with the Pennsylvania State Police. Grant is passionate about building opportunities where people may explore their faith in safe and welcoming environments through worship, formation/education, and outreach.

Grant was born and raised in northeastern North Carolina. Prior to being called to ordained ministry, Grant taught high school English and history and worked with the North Carolina Department of Archives and History and served as a volunteer firefighter for almost 5 years.

Grant is married to the Reverend Martha Ambrose, and they have one child, Alice (8). He loves gardening, a good book, and exploring and encountering the beauty Nature offers.

How is the Holy Spirit calling you to serve the Diocese of Kansas as bishop?

Three words that quickly attracted my attention in the profile were pastor, teacher, and leader as these three word are close to the heart of my ordained ministry.

At the heart of an ordained priest, and bishop for that matter, is the pastor. The pastor shepherds those seeking to know Christ and to make Christ known. Whether



parishioners or people who come seeking relief from the hardships of the world, or fellow clergy, the greatest gift to give is that of pastor, and I take that role very seriously – walking with people, guiding people as they seek the grace and peace of Christ.

A teacher: I truly believe that when God calls us out of something we take that something with us. When I was called to ordained ministry I was a teacher. There is no greater joy and challenge than to walk with someone as they seek to make sense of what they seek — be it a gift or talent, a deeper relationship with God as seen through the life, death and resurrection of Christ or in a larger sense the discernment of a community to identify what God is calling to be or do.

Leader: A leader is someone who has the time and patience to build community, listening to the heart of the community and discerning a trajectory. A leader is also someone who does not shy away from stepping out in front, from time to time, and saying, we have a heading, now join me as I walk together with you. These three — pastor, teacher, and leader — all help to write next chapters in the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas as a community of faith working together.

Other areas of the profile that spoke to me center on the notion of dynamic change and careful assessment of the mission and ministry of the diocese and how through careful, honest, and challenging conversation will strive to bring about a rebirth within the diocese allowing all aspects of the diocese to be ever more relevant in the times in which we find ourselves being called to be The Body of Christ.While there are other areas that call to me, the last I'll note is the nature of small churches. I'm the child of one of the smallest parishes in the Diocese of East Carolina. I have seen the joys and challenges of small, rural parish life. I've seen the success of yoked ministry – again, growing up in a 16-Parish coalition in East Carolina. The measures already in place in EDOK to seek to show small congregations that they are "loved and not alone" are impressive. This extends to more resourced parishes in the diocese. Every community seeking to know Christ and make Christ known plays a vital part in the life of the diocese, and I would be honored to work with you to strengthen this witness and live into new ways of sharing the life giving work of the Spirit.

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner

Biography

I come to your diocese with joy. I serve as Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I have served in communities across the U.S. as priest, professor, musician, and public leader in seminaries, congregations, campus ministries, colleges, and civic organizations.

I grew up as a Christian and became an Episcopalian as a young adult. Here I found an unflinching affirmation of God's love for all humanity with power to remake us and heal the world. I want to ignite our passion for sharing the unbounded love of Jesus Christ. I've helped hundreds across the Church learn and practice evangelism, community engagement, leadership, organizational health, mental health ministry, and spiritual development.

My wife, Heather VanDeventer, serves as Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Spokane. We support each other in ministry wherever we are called. Our two adult children are pursuing their callings in ministry, teaching, and music.

How is the Holy Spirit calling you to serve the Diocese of Kansas as bishop?

One of the hardest decisions of my life was to withdraw from too-be-announced candidacy in Kansas during your last call process in 2018. Your process then was beautiful, and I found myself falling in love with your Diocese, people, and programs. My wife's call to serve as Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Spokane took precedence in our shared discernment, but I grieved stepping aside from



the possibility of working with you. I still have the wheat cross you gave each potential candidate on display in my office. You have continued in my heart, with prayers for strength and thriving through what have been incredibly difficult years across our nation.

A guiding prayer in my recent parish ministry has been "Draw us closer, deeper, wider." All my ministry has focused on creating and strengthening environments that enrich relationships, practice deliberate discipleship, and focus energy toward building purposeful community partnerships. This seems to be your yearning now as a diocese. Your profile communicates an ache for greater trust, warmth, respect, and passion that, if increased, will nurture your spirits for shared work on discipleship and mission. You have an increased sense of shared satisfaction and purpose – and there is room for growth.

Since I last came to know you, your ASA has declined 25% and membership has dropped further. This is, sadly, not an uncommon story across our beloved Episcopal Church. Habits woven into our culture of Episcopalianism unconsciously shape how we speak and act in the world – for good and for ill. These habits require intentional work to change and adjust to the world around us now. I look forward to possible work with you in embracing bold public witness and demonstration of our distinct understanding of the God revealed to us in the self-emptying, unbounded love of Jesus, and our stark difference from the seductions of so-called Christian Nationalism. This is crucial work for all congregations, minsters and regions, and diocesan and affiliated programs.

Evangelism and public witness, leadership development, congregational vitality, and faith development remain my core passions. The work you desire in discipleship, congregational strength, and numeric growth aligns with these areas in which I have taught, trained, led, and empowered clergy and lay leaders. You also have strengths to share with each other. Further, the enduring success of your affiliated institutions offer lessons for designing and effectively reorganizing diocesan, congregational, and regional ministries to become more streamlined, resourced, and optimally effective.You have passion for ministry and mission, and are ready for fresh growth. Your commitment to full inclusion and restoration of right human relationships are embedded in the example of Christ Jesus who is our pattern. I am excited about your growing commitment to building vibrant Latino ministry, working diligently on racial reconciliation, embracing people across sexual orientations and gender identities, and focusing on younger generations. I trust that all these efforts are rooted in and fueled by your love of Jesus and your desire to share and show the unbounded life-changing love of God.

The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice

Biography

Friends in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, it truly is an honor to discern with you! My name is The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice (she/her) and I serve as the Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Over the last six years, I have been blessed to oversee Christian formation for all age groups, the discernment and ordination process, and all of our diocesan revitalization work, missional communities, and church plants. I am currently a writer for the Episcopal Digital Network's *Sermons That Work*, the Evangelism faculty member at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, and creator of the nationally recognized church revitalization initiative Requiem or Renaissance.

I am passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus, and I focus my ministry on rethinking evangelism, leadership praxis in the changing church, and helping people center their lives in the raw energy of God. When I'm not thinking about how we can help Christian community flourish, you'll find me swing dancing.

How is the Holy Spirit calling you to serve the Diocese of Kansas as bishop?

I was so moved by the qualities in "The Bishop We Seek" section of your profile. Although it describes a vibrant, effective, spiritually grounded leader, the reason those traits rose to the top of the list is because those are the charisms that the household of faith in Kansas



is already displaying. We call our leaders out of our own deepest gifts. You could not articulate a desire for a leadership partner who thrives under pressure, embraces new opportunities for growth and mission, who is adaptive, humble, faithful, and curious, if those sparks were not already arising within the gathered Body of Christ across central and eastern Kansas.

On page 9 of the profile, you articulate four clear priorities for your next chapter in diocesan life: evangelism, revitalization, systems change, and discipleship. This is exactly the work I have been doing in the Diocese of Missouri and my heart leapt within me as I read those priorities. The best bishop-diocese partnerships thrive when all parties come to the table fired up about the same goals, ready to roll up their sleeves and get down to work together.

Everything I've shared so far could be described as this call "making sense on paper." But as we know, the Holy Spirit does not send us emails with bullet points and PowerPoint slides laying out our pathways for us (alas!). The nudge of grace is rarely so logical and clear. It comes in breakthroughs of the radiant transformative power of God, and in quiet, barely-there whispers in the dark of night. It rarely "makes sense."

My "this doesn't make sense" moment came in April of 2025. I was driving to Topeka for my Evangelism teaching weekend at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry. As I passed Lawrence on I-70 and began to close in on my destination, I looked out across the fields and a powerful feeling swept over me. The words formed in my mind and filled my heart, "I wish this were my place. I wish I could be here."

I immediately dismissed them, thinking, "Well, they already have a full diocesan staff and plenty of clergy and a bishop, there isn't a place for me here." When I arrived at BKSM, someone shared with me that less than 24 hours prior Bishop Cathleen had announced her plans to conclude her episcopacy. And a little flame sprang up in my heart. That flame has been burning ever since, as various people have spoken with me and prayed with me about this discernment. I leave it to the good people of the Diocese of Kansas and the Holy Spirit as to whether that flame will turn into a blaze of new common ministry. But I have carried that flame with as much integrity and prayer as I know how, and I entrust it to you now. Thank you for the invitation to join you in discernment—may it be a blessing to all of us.

The Rev. Canon Lisa Senuta

Biography

The Episcopal Church in Kansas has been investing in young people for decades and I am forever grateful. I discerned a call to the priesthood through Canterbury at Kansas State University and was ordained in 2001 after earning a Master of Divinity from the Seminary of the Southwest. Over 25 years, I served as a lay chaplain, associate priest, spiritual teacher, rector, and now a Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care. My service to the church has centered on spiritual formation, pastoral care, leadership, and cultivating healthy, mission-focused communities. A decade as rector in Chicago taught me the joy of leading congregational renewal. Since returning to Kansas, my dual role supporting clergy and encouraging spiritual growth have taken me to nearly every parish. We are diverse and yet, I have witnessed unifying resilience, faith and hope that define our diocese.

Through prayer and discernment, I have come to trust God is calling me to lead our diocese into the future rooted in authentic spiritual community and purposeful risk for the gospel. Married for over 30 years, Chad Senuta and I live in Olathe, KS. Together we love and care for our family, enjoy movies, concerts, hiking in the mountains, and emotionally supporting our elderly German Shorthair dog, Sheba.

How is the Holy Spirit calling you to serve the Diocese of Kansas as bishop?

I will always be grateful for the Episcopal Church in Kansas because



it reached out to me with the love of Christ while in my late teens attending Kansas State University. I recall, I was invited to worship at Danforth chapel with the newly formed Episcopal Campus Ministry. That evening I was introduced to ancient liturgy, a sermon inviting me to think, and Jesus' passion for those in need in the prayers. The Episcopal Church invested in me. The outcome is that I have committed my time to growing as a person and priest and I have committed my gifts and passion to building up the Church in faith.

Having served with Bishop Smalley, Bishop Wolfe, and Bishop Bascom, one through line is the stability of the Diocese of Kansas. Stability is a necessary element for health. Over the years I have witnessed growth even as our numbers of actual Episcopalians have diminished. We have many elements of stability. For example, well-run youth and campus ministries, a bench of leaders lay and ordained to serve on committees and commissions, a seminary for training, established ministries of social outreach making a difference, financial stability, formal structures for communication, shared ministry, and a strong spirit to continue the Episcopal way of being Christian. As I listen deeply to the Search profile it reveals the diocese of Kansas would like to also organize for discernment.

Henri Nouwen wrote, "Discernment is a life of listening to a deeper sound and marching to a different beat, a life in which we become 'all ears.'"

I believe our diocese could continue maintaining stability and be faithful to the call to discern how to use its stability to creatively, "face turbulent challenges, shifting demographics, changing patterns of faith and urgent calls for justice." (Profile)

Discernment requires a unique approach. It leans back before actively leaning forward. It reaches consensus. It is open and seeks new endeavors. It is capacity building, patient and value driven. Discernment is transformational communal listening because listening deeply to God, to each other, and to the world, all at the same time, builds a strong sense of purpose.

I am eager to use my experience, gifts, and passion to build a strong sense of shared mission and purpose. I am longing to work with people willing to commit to new ways of sharing the Episcopal way of being Christian. I desire collaborations that creatively reveal the compassionate, active, Presence of God. The profile states the Diocese of Kansas is, "eager to grow, resilient, longing for a higher than usual amount of change and confident that God will continue to lead us into new life. (Profile) Your beautiful, grounded faith amidst challenges compels me to answer the call with you as your bishop and face the future together. My desire is to continue the work begun 189 years ago and boldly bring our reconciling, intelligent, gentle, ancient, socially contemporary, catholic, and reformed Episcopal way of being Christian to Kansas.

Describing the ministry of a bishop

The following description of the life and work of a bishop was generated for the election of the 10th Bishop of Kansas. It remains a helpful encapsulation to understand the work a bishop does.

A position description for a bishop

The actual position description for the bishop of the Diocese of Kansas is long and varied, as it is for any diocesan bishop. A diocese must call a person with an equally varied set of skills to perform the many functions of the office.

A bishop supports all who minister in the church, including providing pastoral support to clergy and their families, to lay leaders, and to those who are called to Holy Orders. Additionally, a bishop provides leadership for congregational and clergy development, youth and college-age programs, and the vocational development of all baptized people.

A bishop serves as chief pastor of the diocese, charged with guarding the faith and unity of the church, proclaiming the gospel, and conforming to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church. Essentially, the bishop sets the tone and upholds the rules for worship, church and diocesan governance, and Christian behavior.

A bishop is present throughout the diocese, visiting each one of our many parishes at least once every three years. A bishop also confirms and receives individuals into the Episcopal Church. The bishop is present at important annual and one-time events throughout the diocese, including ordaining people as deacons and priests.

A bishop serves as chief administrator of the diocese as its ecclesiastical authority, head of diocesan staff, chair of the Council of Trustees and financial authority.

A bishop participates in the councils of the church by attending twice-a-year House of Bishops meetings and participating in a three-year program for new bishops through the College for Bishops. Further, the bishop provides episcopal leadership for public witness throughout the diocese and participates in significant ecumenical events.

What is sometimes easy to miss is that none of this happens in a vacuum. There are no silos or solo players in diocesan life; things move fast; priorities shift. Many important things compete for a bishop's attention.

The ability to maintain a stable, good-humored and deeply spiritual presence over a period of many years is the key to successful ministry in this position. An inner gaze firmly fixed on Jesus Christ brings all aspects of that ministry together at once and provides a singular focal point.



PHOTO BY MICHELE MOSS

Bishop Cathleen Bascom, 10th Bishop of Kansas, processes during an ordination service.

Meet and Greet Schedule

People of the diocese will have the chance to hear from all four bishop candidates when they spend time in the diocese in September.

The Transition Committee has planned events in each of the four convocations, including a lunch with area clergy, dinner with youth and young adults, and a question-and-answer time open to all who want to attend.

The question-and-answer sessions are open to everyone. **Registration is required** to attend the clergy luncheons and youth and young adult dinners. Learn more and register online:

https://episcopal-ks.org/episcopal-diocese-of-kansas-bishop-search/

Tuesday, September 15: Northeast Convocation

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Clergy lunceon; St. Paul's, 1300 North 18th St., Kansas City. Prior registration required.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Youth and Young Adult Dinner; St. Michael and All Angels, 6630 Nall Ave., Mission. Prior registration required.

7:30 – 9 p.m. Question and Answer session; St. Thomas', 12251 Antioch Rd., Overland Park. **This session is open to everyone.**

Wednesday, September 16: Southeast Convocation

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Clergy lunceon; St. John's, 1801 Corning Ave., Parsons. Prior registration required.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Youth and Young Adult Dinner; St. Paul's, 613 Elm St., Coffeyville. Prior registration required.

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Question and Answer session; Epiphany, 400 E. Maple., Independence. **This session is open to everyone.**

Thursday, September 17: Southwest Convocation

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Clergy lunceon; St. John's, 402 N Topeka Ave., Wichita. Prior registration required.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Youth and Young Adult Dinner; St. James, 3750 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita. Prior registration required.

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Question and Answer session; St. Stephen's, 7404 E. Killarney Pl., Wichita. **This session is open to everyone.**

Friday, September 18: Northwest Convocation

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Clergy lunceon; St. David's, 3916 SW 17th St., Topeka. Prior registration required.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Youth and Young Adult Dinner; Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave., Topeka. Prior registration required.

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Question and Answer session; Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave., Topeka. **This session is open to everyone.**

Want to submit a question?

The Transition Committee invites members of the diocese to submit questions for possible inclusion in one or more of the evening question-and-answer sessions.

A submission form is online at https://episcopal-ks.org/episcopal-diocese-of-kansas-bishop-search/.

The deadline to submit questions is **Sunday, August 30**.

The Election of the 11th Bishop of Kansas

The election of the 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas will take place on Saturday, Oct. 24, the second day of the 167th Annual Diocesan Convention, in the nave of Grace Cathedral in Topeka.

Here is the schedule for the election portion of Diocesan Convention:

Saturday, October 24, Grace Cathedral

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.: check-in and election registration (if not completed Friday)
9:00 a.m.: Convention Eucharist
9:00 a.m.: Convention opening and Morning Prayer, Grace Cathedral
11:00 a.m.: All delegates and clergy must have their voting credentials and be seated
Organizational business and balloting begins to elect the 11th bishop of Kansas
12:00 p.m.: Recess for lunch
1:15 p.m.: Election balloting continues (if needed)

The cathedral nave is only open to those registered for diocesan convention:

- Lay parish delegates
- Clergy who are canonically resident
- Lay *ex officio* office holders entitled to vote
- Officers of Convention
- Lay parish alternates who have registered for convention
- Others who have registered and paid for convention
- Members of the Search Committee and Transition Committee
- Those invited to be present to support the work of the convention

Plans call for the election to be broadcast live online. Check the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org, for the link.

Results of each ballot will be posted on the diocesan website, as well as on diocesan social media accounts:

- Facebook — EpiscopalDioceseofKansas
- Instagram — @EpiscoKs

If you share the results on **social media**, please be sure to use **these hashtags**:

- #EpiscoKsBp11
- #KsDioCon

When does it take place?

It happens on the second day of Diocesan Convention, Saturday, Oct. 24. Before balloting can begin, the convention has to meet some canonical requirements to prepare for voting.

Who gets to vote?

Registered members of convention.

Any priest or deacon who is canonically resident in this diocese, whether active or retired, living here or elsewhere, is entitled to vote. They must be present to vote.

Each church is entitled to send lay delegates elected at parish meetings, with the number based on parish membership as defined in the diocesan canons. Youth and campus ministries also are entitled to delegates. If a delegate can't be present, an alternate may be substituted, with required documentation.

How does the voting work?

All ballots at this election will take place using personal electronic devices and a browser-based election platform similar to those we've used for the last several conventions. Each voting member, clergy or lay, gets one vote.

By diocesan canons, clergy and lay votes are counted separately.

How does the Transition Committee support the candidates through the election?

The committee will assign a team of shepherds who will call each candidate after each ballot during the election, prior to results being announced publicly, and they will be present to the candidates after the election.

Once the next bishop has been elected, a team will be formed to assist him or her through the service of ordination and consecration and beyond.

How is a bishop-elect declared?

To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority (50 percent plus one) of votes cast by each order (clergy and lay) counted separately, on the same ballot. It usually takes more than one ballot.

Then what?

The President of the Council of Trustees will call Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, who then will call that candidate to see if they accept election as the 11th bishop of Kansas. Upon acceptance, we have a bishop-elect.

Can we watch the election?

Yes! The election will be live streamed online on the diocese's YouTube channel. The link will be on the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org. If you use social media, the hashtag is #EpiscoKsBp11.

The live stream will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the Convention Eucharist. Organizational business is expected to begin at 11:00 a.m. with the first ballot soon after.

When will they become our bishop?

The bishop-elect will be ordained and consecrated on Saturday, Apirl 17, 2027, at Grace Cathedral. More information will be available prior to the service.

How will the Transition Committee support the bishop-elect when they arrive?

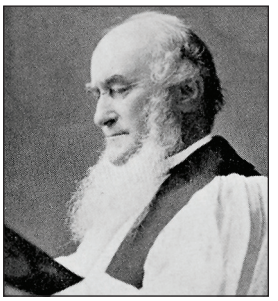
During this "get-to-know" phase, the team will assist the bishop-elect by arranging appointments with key personnel, introducing him or her to the larger community, and generally helping him or her become acclimated to the diocese. The Transition Committee will continue to work with the new bishop for as long as it takes to ensure that he or she is off to a good start.

More information on all the aspects of the transition can be found via the diocesan website, www.episcopal-ks.org.

The first ten bishops of Kansas

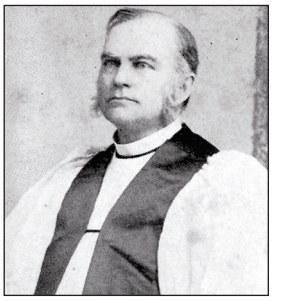
Thomas Hubbard Vail
1864 – 1888

- Founded 70 churches traveling across the prairie
- Oversaw the College of the Sisters of Bethany
- Helped start Topeka's first hospital



Elisha Smith Thomas
1889 – 1895

- Founded Kansas Theological School and St. John's Military Academy
- Kept churches afloat during a nationwide economic panic



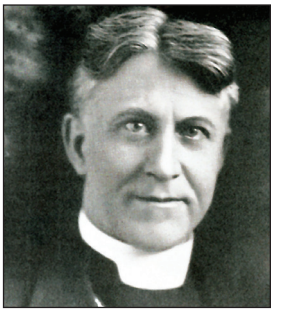
Frank R. Millspaugh
1895 – 1916

- Built 36 churches, including Grace Cathedral, Topeka, and 21 rectories
- Helped oversee creation of a new diocese to serve Western Kansas



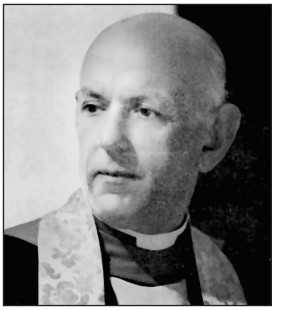
James Wise
1916 – 1939

- Guided the diocese during two World Wars and the Great Depression
- Started a diocesanwide "Every Member Canvass" to raise funds for ministry



Goodrich R. Fenner
1939 – 1959

- Oversaw expansion in post-WWII churches, with 1,000 confirmations several years
- Created Church Extension Fund for building loans
- Started ministries at KU, KSU



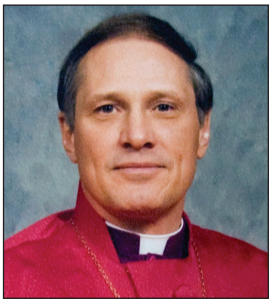
Edward C. Turner
1959 – 1981

- Saw 11 new churches started
- Oversaw a major revision of the diocesan constitution and canons
- Engaged in social ministries



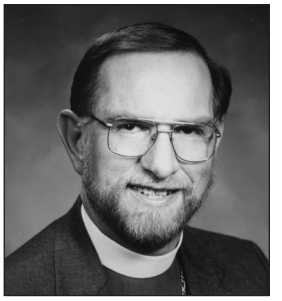
Richard F. Grein
1981 – 1988

- Oversaw revitalization of the diaconate in the diocese
- Urged churches to merge or move for greater mission
- Began the Gathering of Presbyters and Chrism Mass



William E. Smalley
1989 – 2003

- Created the Kansas School of Ministry
- Oversaw merger of groups into Council of Trustees
- Helped the diocese explore issues of human sexuality



Dean E. Wolfe
2004 – 2017

- Oversaw capital campaign that raised $4 million
- Helped create the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry
- Expanded campus ministries



Cathleen Chittenden Bascom 2019-2026

- Established Minsters for parish collaboration
- Created Bethany House & Garden
- Founded Episcopal Grasslands Network



Closure on the Horizon?



A SLATE has been published! Convention is near! An ordination is on the calendar! Our transition between bishops is almost at an end! Grant, David, Whitney, or Lisa will be the eleventh bishop of Kansas, and it will be a joy to see one of them bring their faith and gifts to Kansas' opportunities and challenges!

As I reviewed our election slate, my mind was full of joyful thoughts about the end of our transition. No surprise then that God placed before me a corrective in the form of the fortnightly newsletter from Oliver Burkeman, the author Four Thousand Weeks and Meditations for Mortals. As I reveled in the forthcoming end of our transition, Burkeman's newsletter arrived in my inbox counseling, "let go, as far as you can, of . . . 'the compulsion to closure,'" he writes, "the hope that all of this is leading up to some kind of permanent resolution. It isn't." (The Imperfectionist newsletter, July 9, 2026)

I do have theological quibbles with the idea that "all of this" isn't leading to a permanent resolution. Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead," along with its promised bodily resurrection and renewal of the cosmos promises to be a permanent resolution. However, Burkeman is not writing an eschatology paper. His challenge is both more present and more difficult: our finitude compels us to strive for resolutions, for endings.

Nothing has highlighted my own finitude like this bishop transition. It's a challenge to support the ecclesiastical authority of a body (the Council of Trustees) rather than an individual (Bishop Bascom). Teaching and reminding others about the limits of my own authority is a constant task. I am excited for our transition to end. My personal compulsion to closure is raging and I see it flaring up in others: I'm regularly witness to conversations that include thoughts like, "Well, I guess we'll have to see what the next bishop thinks." On the one hand, it's good news that we are ready to have a bishop!

On the other hand, an obvious reminder: the resolution of our bishop transition is also the beginning of an episcopate. Our eleventh bishop needs us now, active in our witness and connected to our neighborhood; rooted in prayer and sacrament; building trust and community with one another. More simply, Burkeman continues from above, "It's better than that: you get to just be here and do stuff!"

Now that the slate has been published, we can see that our next bishop will not have experience being bishop. As they grow into their episcopate, they will need to draw from the depths of their faith, trust, and spiritual practices. They will need the whole of who God has called and formed them to be. And you and I are not off the hook: the eleventh bishop of the diocese of Kansas needs us.

It will be a joy to know who our next bishop will be and to welcome them into their new ministry AND we can't know how the episcopacy will transform them. We will entrust them with spiritual authority and temporal power AND they will need us to continue our good work. Even with all that will be conferred upon them through their election and ordination, they need us. We are all part of the eleventh episcopate of the diocese of Kansas. Ministry arising from baptism is better than casting all our hopes and cares onto the next bishop, we "get to just be here and do stuff!"

I am grateful that Grant, David, Whitney, and Lisa have entrusted their gifts and calling to our discernment. Praying for each of them daily, I ask God for the strength let go of my compulsion to closure. I pray that I will not expect more from them than I expect of myself and I hope that we are all prepared for our place within the eleventh episcopate of the diocese we love. God bless us with grace: for ourselves, for our candidates, and for the eleventh bishop of Kansas.

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The 167th Convention

of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

October 23-24, 2026

Grace Cathedral, Topeka

www.episcopal-ks.org/diocesan-convention-2026